(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of gas struck individually;

(c) whether Government plan to export LPG gas in view of getting satisfactory reserves of gas; and

(d) if so, by when it will be allowed for exports

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has established 21 gas finds during the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002) estimated to contain 14.17 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of ultimate gas reserves as on 1.4.2002. During the same period, Oil India Ltd. established 6 non-associated gas fields estimated to contain about 2.8 BCM of ultimate gas reserves. Further, during this period private/joint venture companies also reported three gas discoveries. The gas reserves from these are estimated to be 18.08 BCM. Additionally, some more gas associated with oil has also been discovered during the period.

In 2002-03 some recent discoveries have been reported by the consortium of Reliance Industries Ltd. and Niko resources Ltd., Canada (NIKO) in Krishna-Godavari basin offshore and by NIKO in Cambay basin onland in the State of Gujarat. While detailed estimation of gas reserves from these discoveries has not been made by the operators, the preliminary in-place gas is estimated by them to be 7 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) and 10-80 Billion Cubic Feet (BCF) in blocks KG-DWN-98/3 and CB-ONN-2000/2 respectively.

(c) Any assessment of surplus or deficit in LPG in view of these discoveries would be premature at this stage.

(d) Government have permitted Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) to export only imported LPG to SAARC countries as long as it does not impact upon the domestic demand.

Development of Mangalore Refinery

1469. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has any plan to develop Managalore refinery to utilize its full capacity;

(b) if so, the details of the present utilization of the refinery;

(c) whether any target has been set for full utilization of capacity of Managalore refinery; and

(d) the details of dates and schedule for such utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)'s actual crude throughput for the period April to October, 2002 was 4.18 million metric tonnes, which is 74% of the installed capacity of 9.69 million metric tonnes per annum. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has submitted a proposal to the Government to acquire majority stake in MRPL. As per the proposal of ONGC, capacity utilisation of MRPL is expected to improve. No decision has been taken by the Government as yet.

Sharing of Rise in Crude Prices

1470. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked the State-owned oil marketing firms to share the burden of increased global crude prices and not pass it all to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether it has been pointed out that oil companies cannot increase the prices fortnightly by 25—30 paise in tandem with global prices to keep their rate of returns intact;

(c) if so, what are the other communications forwarded to these companies; and

(d) to what extent they have agreed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Special dividend by ONGC

1471. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned ONGC may give Government Rs. 10,000 Crore special payout which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 12th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ONGC is being compelled to announce the Special Dividend by Government through a Presidential Directive;